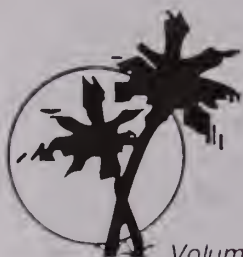


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The Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71497-002



Volume IX Number 2 Summer 1996



Alumni First

at Homecoming on Oct. 18&19

Northwestern State University
A Member of the University of Louisiana System
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Alumni **III** C O L U M N S

Magazine

Fall 1997





Dr. Randall J. Webb, President
Northwestern State University

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the role you have played in making the past year a successful one. Your cards, letters and phone calls

have been appreciated.

It's been an exciting year. We've focused on people, and have worked to create a good environment on campus.

Over the past year, we have seen enrollment continue to climb. In May, we had the largest spring graduating class in the university's history. Along with the increases in enrollment came recognition of quality in academic programs. Our accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was reaffirmed in December. The program in business was accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business for the first time and the program in veterinary technology had its accreditation reaffirmed by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The degree program in journalism was also provisionally accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications.

Our goal is to have all eligible programs accredited by the year 2000. Accreditation is important because it is a sign of a quality academic program and makes our students more marketable once they receive their degrees.

The university also added new degrees in criminal justice and liberal arts. The name of the degree program in speech was changed to theatre to better reflect the objectives of the program.

The quality of Northwestern's programs was affirmed in other ways. NSU's Chamber Choir was chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall in April, headlining a performance on Palm Sunday. Northwestern was designated by NASA as a training center under the GLOBE Program, part of the teacher education and training mission of "Mission to the Planet Earth," a major NASA effort.

During my tenure as president, I have tried to be accessible to students and open to their ideas. Because of student ideas, we initiated a major renovation project in two campus residence halls. Student services have been upgraded by building the first phase of a campus jogging track and bringing the first of two brand-name franchises to the campus food service operation.

The things we have accomplished have been because of teamwork by the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters of NSU. I believe the people at Northwestern are one element that sets us apart. There is a genuine interest on the part of the people of Northwestern to see our students do well while they are here and after they graduate. The strong support we receive from you indicate we are succeeding.

I anticipate each day as an opportunity to do something to improve the university. Our people have a great opportunity to change the lives of others by the way they teach and serve others. I want to continue to create an environment in which all the people we serve can have a chance to reach their potential.

Thanks for your support of Northwestern and I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming.

Elise P. James, Director
Alumni Development



This letter was written from the beaches of Key West, Florida, as we watch the beautiful sunset. Needless to say, I was on vacation and having a great time. Every night in Key West, this event takes place with many added attractions, such as jugglers, tightrope walkers, basket makers, etc. People walk around and visit with folks from all over and when the sun sets, there is a very loud cheer from the crowd. What people will do in the name of fun!

As I watched this unusual show, my thoughts drifted back to real life — such as fall and Homecoming at Northwestern. It will be here before you know it, so please make plans to attend this year and watch the sunset on Chaplins Lake or Cane River.

The agenda is in this issue so please check what events you would like to attend and get on your purple NSU shirt and come home to "The Hill".

I know many of you will be interested in attending the dedication of the track complex to Coach Walter Ledet - a legend in his own time. Mr. Walter is certainly deserving of this honor and we hope many will attend to offer their congratulations.

At the luncheon, Coach Ledet will be honored again, as well as the presentation of the Long Purple Line inductees and the announcement of the Outstanding Teachers.

The Class of 1947 will end their year of celebrating for being out of school 50 years. They will, at that time, become a part of the 50+ Club, which is an elite and prestigious group. This is the group that blazed the trail for all of us to follow from Louisiana State Normal School to Northwestern State University.

As my vacation came to an end, I was anxious for the fall activities to begin. Work is fun when the students begin arriving for the new semester and all it has to offer. First time freshman are excited about this new beginning and seniors are ready to hit the big world beyond the Northwestern gates.

Come and see for yourself by visiting the campus for Homecoming. See you then!

About the Cover: The Bullard mansion, constructed in 1832, was the site selected in 1884 for the Louisiana State Normal School. The picture shown on the cover of this issue is circa 1898. Today, on the campus of Northwestern State University, three of the four great white columns that once supported the east gable of the Bullard mansion still stand on "The Hill" and serve as the unofficial symbol of the University. Your Alumni Columns committee takes its name and logo from this campus landmark. Please see the photograph of the columns on the back cover of this magazine.

Natchitoches—Northwestern Symphony Orchestra celebrates 30 years of community support

"I enjoy getting the opportunity to play with a large group like an orchestra..."

—Clarence Frank, a senior music education major from Baytown, Texas.



Quality live classical music isn't something that Natchitoches area residents and students at NSU must drive hours to experience. For 30 years, the Natchitoches - Northwestern Symphony Orchestra has assured music lovers that the concert hall is minutes away from their homes.

The orchestra has approximately 75 members and consists of Northwestern students, NSU faculty, most of whom are not music faculty, community members and students from the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. About 40 members are string players and the other 30-35 play wind, percussion or other instruments. Support for the orchestra comes from the Natchitoches - Northwestern Symphony Society which raises money to provide scholarships for orchestra members and bring in guest artists. Without the support of the Symphony Society, it would be impossible to form the orchestra. Natchitoches has the distinction of being one of the smallest communities in the United States to support a

regularly performing symphony orchestra.

The orchestra was formed in 1967 when Natchitoches resident Martha Roberson approached Natchitoches businessman Jim Bob Key about forming an orchestra in the community.

"Martha came to me one day and said it was time that Natchitoches had an orchestra," said Key. "From there, the Symphony Society was formed. The orchestra has been a community effort from the start and has seen tremendous growth over the years."

According to Natchitoches - Northwestern Symphony Conductor Dr. George Adams, the orchestra plays a variety of roles.

"The orchestra has an educational role," said Adams, who is entering his seventh year as the orchestra's conductor. "It trains the musicians in the actual techniques of playing in the orchestra and gives them the kind of hands-on experience they could not get any other way. They get that experience by performing some of the greatest music the mind of man has created over the past 300 years."

Adams says the orchestra also helps its members learn to interact with a diverse group of people including music majors, music

education majors or those who major in other areas but have a great love for orchestral music. The university also benefits from the presence of the orchestra.

"Both the university and the community benefit from an enhanced artistic and cultural stature," he said. "We attract a number of fine students who earn degrees in a variety of fields such as mathematics or history and take their love of music with them. Because we attract high caliber students, these students in turn help the university bring in more good students who have a broadening effect on the campus."

The orchestra performs seven to 10 times per year presenting classical programs, a pops concert and taking part in the annual Christmas Gala. Members of the orchestra also work with local students, providing private instruction.

"I enjoy getting the opportunity to play with a large group like an orchestra," said cellist Clarence Frank, a senior music education major from Baytown, Texas. "It's a different experience than playing solo or with a small group. There is a larger selection of music to choose from."

Frank said the learning experience goes beyond playing the notes in a great work of music.

"In rehearsal, I learn techniques that I can use later when I



Pictured discussing the organization of the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society are, seated, left to right, Dr. Joseph Carlucci, Mrs. Frank Roberson, Mrs. Dwane Murphy; standing, left to right, Mrs. Margaret Adkins, Mrs. Edgerton Pierson, Mrs. David Townsend and Jim Bob Key. The photographer for the 1967 event was John C. Guillet.

am a teacher," he said. "I've learned many useful things from working with and watching Dr. Adams that will stay with me."

Adams recruits students primarily from Louisiana and Texas, using every method available to find quality musicians to make up the orchestra.

"There are a number of fine music programs in Louisiana we recruit from. We are able to get students from Natchitoches and Rapides Parish and the Shreveport area as well," said

Adams. "We try to find students who are promising performers and good scholars. We are also on the lookout for musicians in the community who can add to the orchestra."

As the orchestra has grown during Adams' tenure, the quality has also grown. The Natchitoches - Northwestern Symphony regularly appears on a series of concerts broadcast over the local National Public Radio Affiliate which

covers north Louisiana, east Texas, south Arkansas and west Mississippi.

"The quality of musicians in the orchestra has skyrocketed," said Adams. "And we've done it with students and local musicians. We don't have to bring in any outside musicians. That's because of the work done by the people of the community."

The Symphony Society raised more than \$16,000 in 1996-97 to provide scholarships for string players and hopes to raise more than \$22,000 for scholarships this year. The Symphony Society has approximately 275 members and raises funds through memberships, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and fundraisers.

"The amount of support we receive is tremendous. There is a great deal of interest in the arts in Natchitoches," said outgoing Symphony Society President Dr. William Mathis, who is also an associate professor of music at NSU. "We know the impact of the orchestra goes beyond the performances. An orchestra can assist in bringing new businesses and industry into the community because an orchestra adds to the quality of life in the community."

In selecting the works the orchestra will perform each season, Adams may prepare as far as a year in advance. The



Dr. William Mathis, Jack Crim, rehearses in preparation for an April 1968 production of the newly formed Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society. The women in this John C. Guillet photograph are from left front row, Sue Williams, Ann W. Mack, Christie Maynard, Chari Barron, Jacque Reed and back row, Judy Southerland, Evie Norman, Brenda Wilson, Gayla Magers, and Larry Magers.

orchestra regularly performs well-known works by composers such as Beethoven, Bach, Mozart and Tchaikovsky, but Adams also chooses to perform works by lesser known composers. He said that three elements go into preparing the orchestra's repertoire.

"Firstly, we want to educate and train the orchestra and expose them to new styles, concepts and technical and musical challenges so that they will become better musicians," he said. "Secondly, we are in the business of bringing the arts in the form of orchestral music to the community. So we have to consider what the community will appreciate. We also have to do what any good artistic organization will do and educate the public and expose them to new material. This has to be done

carefully.

"Thirdly, we have to put together programs in which the works have a logical relationship to each other. We may do Beethoven, opera excerpts or a variety of pieces that have some connection."

As a long-time musical devotee, Key appreciates being exposed to composers or works he was not previously familiar with.

"Every time I go and hear a work that I wasn't familiar with, it makes me want to go out and buy a CD of the work once I've heard the live performance," said Key. "I've been exposed to many works that I didn't think I'd like until I actually heard them. At times I've wished the orchestra would play what

people like, but I now appreciate the musical growth that comes from a varied program."

Members of the orchestra also appreciate the challenge of doing more difficult pieces.

"Most major works are a challenge to play," said Frank. "Dr. Adams shows a lot of faith in us by programming difficult works of music and letting us know that he thinks we can pull it off. We see those major works as a big opportunity for us."

Adams says there is a huge amount of music available to perform. In his tenure, the orchestra has only performed two pieces more than once.

"As the orchestra grows, we have more possibilities for programming," he said. "We hope to keep working on creative programs that serve all our constituencies."



Fundraising efforts have begun in the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear Department of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University in order to bring one of the department's most prized possessions up to recital standard and to maintain the piece on a yearly basis.

Organizers say the Magale Recital Hall Pipe Organ is in need of maintenance, tuning and re-voicing. In addition, funds are needed to bring the organ closer to recital standard by adding a trumpet en chamade or state trumpet to it.

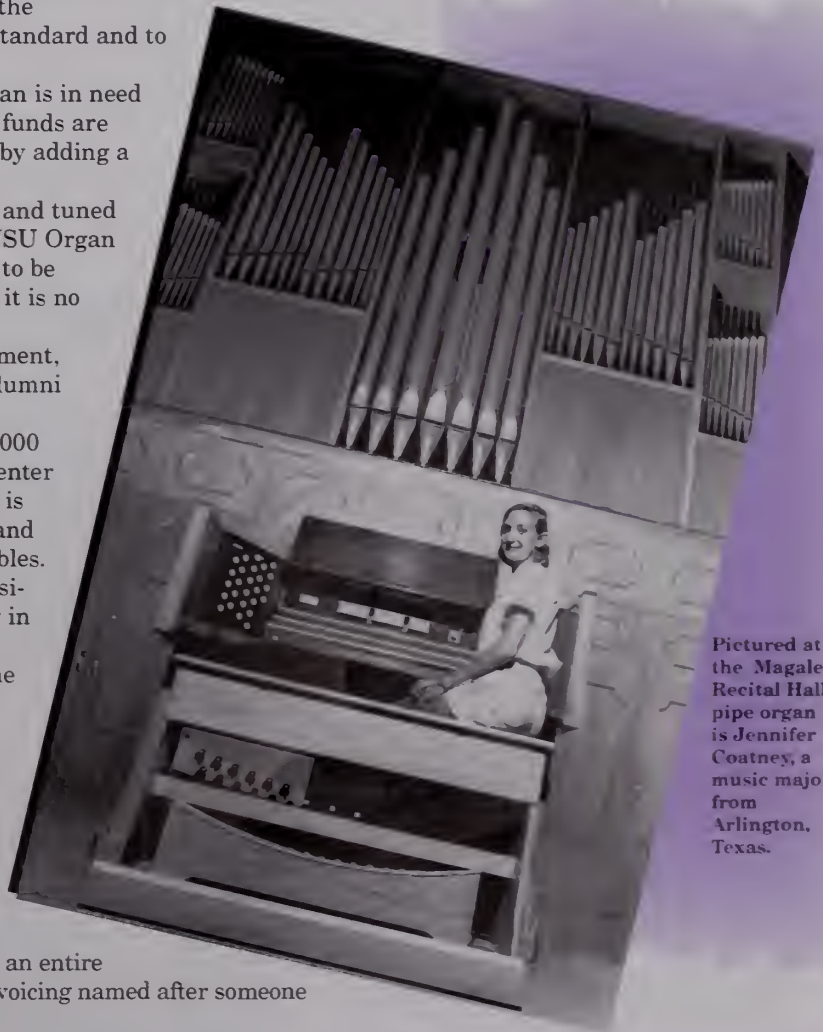
"An organ of this type needs to be cleaned yearly and tuned and re-voiced twice a year," said Dr. Mary deVille, NSU Organ Instructor. "The organ must be maintained in order to be operable. If it is not, it will simply deteriorate until it is no longer usable."

DeVille along with Bill Brent, head of the department, hope to raise between \$10,000 to \$15,000 through alumni donations and/or memorials.

Installed at a cost of \$150,000 during the \$12,000,000 construction and renovation of the A.A. Fredericks Center for Creative and Performing Arts, the Reuters Organ is used daily for student and faculty practices, recitals and concerts with the choir, orchestra and various ensembles.

"This is not only one of the best organs at a Louisiana university, it is the only concert organ currently in place in a recital hall on a Louisiana university campus. NSU was extremely fortunate in having the foresight to install an organ in Magale when it was built. Each semester the number of students studying organ has increased. And with the church music program we plan to implement, the organ will have a much more important role to play and the number of students studying organ should increase as well," said deVille.

A donation of \$100 or more will be acknowledged by placing a plaque in a designated area in the Magale Recital Hall. Those who might wish to donate an entire "rank" of pipes for the organ and have that particular voicing named after someone should contact Brent at (318) 357-4522.



Pictured at the Magale Recital Hall pipe organ is Jennifer Coatney, a music major from Arlington, Texas.

Fred Fulton

Vice President for Student Affairs



Eleven years ago, Fred Fulton got an offer he couldn't refuse. Fulton had an opportunity to return to Northwestern as Dean of Student Life. He took advantage of that chance to return to his alma mater and has played a major role in the growth of NSU over that period.

Fulton later became Dean of Students and was named Vice President for Student Affairs in 1994. A 1965 graduate of Northwestern, Fulton received his Master's in Education in 1972. He was a teacher and coach at Many High School before joining the Beauregard Parish School System. During his 21 years in Beauregard Parish, Fulton was a teacher and coach, assistant principal and principal. When he left to come to NSU, he was Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel.

"I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to come back," said Fulton, who credits former university President Dr. Robert Alost and Vice President for University Affairs Dr. James Haley with giving him a chance to work at NSU. "It certainly was the right decision to come back. I've enjoyed being a part of the staff here and having the opportunity to work with and get to know the students."

In his current position, Fulton oversees non-academic areas on campus that deal with student services. That includes financial aid, campus housing, food service and campus organizations. He also supervises the Office of Admissions and Recruiting, University Police, Career Planning and Placement and the implementation of a Title III grant that was awarded to the university to improve student retention.

"Some of these areas such as Admission and Recruiting and Financial Aid are the first areas a student or prospective student has contact with" said Fulton. "We want these areas to serve students as well as they can. We are always looking to find ways to deliver these services in a better manner."

Fulton is now working on a project to renovate three campus residence halls, Rapides, Sabine and Dodd Halls.

NSU has also received planning money from the state of Louisiana to begin a renovation of East and West Caspari Halls. The university closed West Caspari Hall in 1983. East Caspari is still in use.

Renovations will also take place in campus dining facilities in Iberville Hall and the Friedman Student Union. Iberville Hall will receive new tables and chairs and booths will be placed around the perimeter of the hall. New carpeting will be installed and changes will be made in the service line and beverage areas. The renovations will increase the seating capacity in Iberville.

Vic's Cafe on the second floor of the Student Union will also get new furniture, a bakery island and frozen treat island. A second branded restaurant will join Chick-Fil-A in Le Rendezvous on the first floor of the Student Union along with a gourmet coffee restaurant.

Fulton has also been working to see that his area is responsive to the growing number of non-traditional students who attend Northwestern.

"We know many of our students hold full-time jobs, so we have extended office hours in many areas to accommodate these students," he said.

The Title III grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for \$1.6 million over five years. This grant allows NSU to develop programs to identify students who are at risk to drop out and help these students work toward a degree.

"College is a time of transition for students. Most of them are on their own for the first time," said Fulton. "We try to provide them with experiences outside the classroom which will help them learn to make responsible decisions. Student Affairs provides services which support the primary mission of the university which is to help students obtain an education."



The man known for his generosity, his fondness for fishing, his love of educating young people and his passion for Northwestern recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

"Dr. Murphy Rogers certainly has brought honor to his alma mater in so many ways and I consider him to be a very special person," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "He has been kind and dedicated with both his time and his resources and we are indebted to him and his contributions."

Dr. Webb is shown posing for photographs with Dr. Rogers, after the presentation of a Northwestern Afghan coverlet to the celebrant.



The Kyser Endowed Scholarship will benefit students majoring in the social sciences

Mrs. Thelma Kyser has made a donation of \$100,000 to the NSU Foundation to establish the John, Thelma and Janet Kyser Endowed Scholarship at Northwestern State University. Interest from the donation will establish a scholarship which will benefit students majoring in the social sciences.

"My heart has been with Northwestern since I came here in 1918," said Mrs. Kyser, a Northwestern graduate, who was a 1992 inductee into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. "I wanted to do something that could help the students of Northwestern who have always meant so much to me."

Mrs. Kyser's husband, John S. Kyser, served as Northwestern's president from 1954 until 1966.

"John and Thelma Kyser have had a dramatic impact on Northwestern. Indeed, they were pioneers in helping to transform this institution into what it has become today," said Northwestern President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "Their focus was always on the students of Northwestern and how best to teach and serve them, to prepare them for the future. It is fitting that this generous donation from Mrs. Kyser will be for the benefit of students. This is a most thoughtful gesture on her part, and it serves to chance the legacy the Kyser family has handed down to Northwestern over the years."

Mrs. Kyser was a pioneer in the development of physical education programs for women and has been a major contributor to the historic preservation of Natchitoches.

A 1922 graduate of State Normal College, Kyser served on the college's faculty for 18 years. She was instrumental in getting an academic major in physical education for women established in 1930, the first curriculum in physical education for women in any state college in Louisiana.

She was a charter member and first president of the Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and has been recognized on the state and national level for her interests and contributions to health and physical education.

Kyser reactivated the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches in 1954 and was association president for 13 years. She established the first Natchitoches pilgrimage, a tour of homes in the National Historic Landmark district and plantations in the Cane River Country which has resulted in Natchitoches becoming one of the state's most popular tourist attractions.

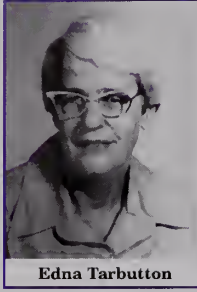
She was also instrumental in editing and publishing the book, "Natchitoches, Oldest Settlement in Louisiana Purchase," and the NSU Press publication of "Cane River Country." The publication was made possible by a contribution of land to NSU by the John S. Kyser Estate.

Kyser was previously honored by NSU with an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities.

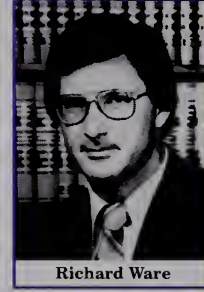
The top picture was recently taken during the Kyser Endowed Scholarship announcement ceremony, held at the home of Mrs. Thelma Kyser; left to right, Elise James, Director of Alumni Development, Dr. Randall J. Webb, President of NSU and Kyser. The background photograph shows Dr. and Mrs. John Kyser near the Bullard Columns, in a 1966 farewell wave to the campus signifying Dr. Kyser's retirement from the presidency of Northwestern.



Doyle Williams



Edna Tarbutton



Richard Ware



Paul "Doc" Marx

NSU Hall of Distinction (The Long Purple Line) will induct four new members during homecoming activities

Three Northwestern State University alumni and a faculty member who had a major impact on students at the university for more than three decades have been selected for induction into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. The alumni, Edna Tarbutton, Richard Ware and Doyle Williams along with former faculty member Paul "Doc" Marx will be inducted on Saturday, Oct. 18 as part of Homecoming activities. Ware will be posthumously inducted. Twenty-one NSU alumni and faculty have been selected for the Long Purple Line.

Marx joined Northwestern's faculty in 1939 after earning his bachelor's and master's degree at Louisiana State University and taught at the university until 1971. His tenure was interrupted when he volunteered to serve in the Army Air Corps in World War II.

He worked with Northwestern's athletic department in a variety of roles including trainer, photographer and counselor and taught health and physical education. Marx taught courses in personal health, first aid, kinesiology, tests and measurements, athletic training,

recreation, public health and activity courses. He also was the liaison between the university and the Red Cross for aquatic schools and lifesaving programs.

Marx was elected to the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame in 1978. Northwestern awarded him an honorary doctorate of humanities in 1992.

Tarbutton, a 1943 graduate of Northwestern, was one of Louisiana's most successful coaches, serving as girls' basketball coach at Baskin High School for 33 years from 1943 until 1976. After retiring from teaching, she taught social studies at Baskin High for four years.

Tarbutton had a career record of 654-263-2, winning nine state championships including eight in a row between 1948 and 1955. At one stretch her teams won 218 straight games over five seasons from 1947-48 to 1952-53. During the stretch of eight championships, her teams had a record of 311-2. In 1976, she was a nominee for National Coach of the Year.

A strict disciplinarian and fierce competitor, Tarbutton was respected and admired by the students she coached and taught. In 1993, Tarbutton was elected to

the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame as only the fourth woman inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Ware, a 1971 graduate of Northwestern, was a star fullback, who went on to a distinguished career as an attorney and judge. He passed away in August, 1996.

He lettered in football from 1967-70 and was the team's leading rusher in 1969 and 1970. Ware, an all-conference selection in 1970 set the school single game rushing record with 186 yards against Southwest Oklahoma that season. He was also named permanent team captain in 1970 and was elected Mr. NSU. Ware, who was elected to the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame in 1984, stayed close to Demon athletics by serving as color analyst on radio broadcasts of Northwestern football games for 17 years.

Ware was the youngest judge in Louisiana when he was elected as district judge from the 39th Judicial District in Red River Parish in 1982. He was slated to be president of the Louisiana District Judges Association in October 1996. Ware was chairman of the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund and president of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family



Court Judges. He received the prestigious Commissioner's Award presented by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala for his efforts in preventing child abuse in Louisiana.

Williams is the dean of the College of Business Administration and the Sam M. Walton Leadership Chair holder at the University of Arkansas. He was the founding dean of the School of Accounting at the University of Southern California and served for two years as interim dean of the USC School of Business Administration. Williams has also served on the faculty and as coordinator for the area of accounting at Texas Tech

University. He was also chairman of the Accounting Education Change Commission from its inception in 1989 until 1993.

A native of Ajax, Williams is a 1960 graduate of Northwestern in accounting. He earned his master's and doctorate at Louisiana State University. Williams is chair of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business Accounting Accreditation Committee and is a member of the Business Accreditation Committee. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public

Accountants Technical Standards Subcommittee.

Among the honors he has received are the Beta Alpha Psi's National Council Accountant of the Year Award, the California Society of CPAs Distinguished Professor Award, the USC School of Accounting's Distinguished Service Award, the AICPA's Outstanding Accounting Educator Award and the Arkansas Society of CPAs Lifetime Achievement Award in Education. Williams has served as president of the American Accounting Association and vice president and member of the board of directors of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Northwestern's annual Homecoming activities are planned for October 17 & 18...You're *invited!*

N SU will hold its annual Homecoming activities Oct. 17-18 on the Northwestern campus and at the Robert W. Wilson, Sr. Recreation Complex near campus. The graduating class of 1947 will be the honored guests at all activities.

"Homecoming is one of the highlights of the year for our alumni, students and anyone associated with Northwestern," said Director of Alumni Development Elise James. "Alumni have become more involved over the last few years. They enjoy the chance to come back to campus and see the way in which Northwestern has grown and changed."

The activities will begin on Friday, Oct. 17 with the annual Alumni Golf Tournament at the Recreation Complex beginning at 1 p.m. The Alumni Association Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting at 3 p.m. in the President's Room of the Friedman Student Union.

At 6:30 p.m., a jambalaya supper will be held at the Recreation Complex. Tickets are \$5. Entertainment will be provided.

On Saturday, a ceremony dedicating the Northwestern Track and Field Complex in honor of Walter P. Ledet will be held at 10 a.m. in Magale

Homecoming memories

by Gerald Long, Class of 1966

There is nothing I look forward to more than coming home. Not to my roots in Winnfield, but my roots at Northwestern.

Homecoming allows my mind to run free and to reflect on the days when NSU was home away from home. It was a place where pep rallies and all-night study sessions were as normal as complaining about the cafeteria food and lack of air conditioning.

Homecoming — remembering exactly where I met my wife to be for the first time and convincing her to date me. I'll never forget football practices with my brother Carroll and a host of freshmen who were really scared.

Finally, I remember getting that diploma which has allowed me to say with great pride that I am a graduate of Northwestern which is my school, my pride, my home.

I hope to see you at homecoming as we make more memories.

Editor's Note: Gerald Long is a State Farm Insurance Agent in Ruston.



Gerald Long

Recital Hall. A reception will follow in the Orville Hanchey Art Gallery.

Ledet was Northwestern's first football All-American in 1938 and earned his degree in chemistry, physics and math. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, but turned down that offer to become an assistant football coach and head freshman coach at Northwestern.

From 1952 until 1964, he was the state's most successful track and field coach, leading his team to five conference championships and three second-place finishes.

Ledet managed Prather Coliseum from 1965 until 1967, then served as Northwestern's registrar until 1980 when he retired.

He was inducted into the Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame in 1970, the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line in 1993 and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

Also at 10 a.m., the All Alumni Reception, 50-year reunion for the Class of 1947 and a reunion for the Class of 1952 will be held in the Student Union Lobby.

The annual Alumni Luncheon will be held at noon in the Student Union Ballroom. During the luncheon, the Alumni Association will hold its annual general meeting. The members of the Class of 1947, inductees into the Long Purple Line and the recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Award will be honored.

At 2 p.m., the Homecoming game against Southwest Texas will be held in Turpin Stadium. The "Spirit of Northwestern" Marching Band will be featured along with the 1997 Homecoming Court. Ledet, the members of the Class of 1947, inductees into the Long Purple Line and the recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Award will be recognized.

After the game, the NSU Band Alumni will hold their annual meeting and social at the NSU Alumni Center.

For more information on Homecoming 1997, contact the NSU Office of Alumni Affairs at (318) 357-4414.

Homecoming memories

by Linda Davis, Class of 1992



Linda Davis

College life was great! Sometimes I wonder why can't I go back? But, I can! Homecoming is my excuse to take time to remember my early 20's, relive good times, and reconnect with special people at Northwestern. I recall returning to Natchitoches for Homecoming last year and the overwhelming nostalgia I felt as I walked around campus.

I walked by Natchitoches Hall (now Dodd Hall) — my home for two years. I remembered we had a shaving cream fight on my floor after we won an intramural basketball game. It was all in good fun and (Director of Housing) Mr. (Harold) Boutte was humored by it, but we were still sentenced to a full Saturday of trash pick-up.

I remember Magale Recital Hall where those of us who were Freshman Connectors rehearsed and performed "Summer Lovin" from "Grease" to a crowd of new students and their parents during summer orientations.

The fountain: it's full of detergent suds. Some things never change. The cheerleader practice field, the Phi Mu house, . . . And what is that smell?? Of course, the chicken plant is in full production. I then headed to Turpin Stadium for the traditional tailgate party and football game. I wouldn't want to miss the best band in Louisiana perform.

One special memory for me was being selected Homecoming Queen in 1990. The entire week of activities - from the Mr. Homecoming Hunny Pageant to the parade into downtown - made it the liveliest week of the fall semester. I could have done without landing in the ice water of the dunking booth,

though. What was beautiful about Homecoming at Northwestern is that it really didn't matter who won the football game, it was a time to show true spirit and pride for our University. It was - and still is - a celebration for the entire community of students, staff, alumni, and the city of Natchitoches.

During halftime of the football game, I received the traditional kiss and congratulations from President Alost. He said these words to me, "Linda, you've been a great representative for Northwestern, Congratulations to you. Please stay in touch with us."

And I have. The friends I made, the mentors who guided me, the faculty who taught me are very special. I don't consider my college years "a closed chapter in the book of life." Instead, I choose to nurture and develop the relationships that began here and remain connected to my Alma Mater. I have also found that a simple phone call or email cures any "guilt" that years of no contact can create. I love the people at Northwestern. It was my time here that inspired me

to pursue a career in higher education. I am proud to say I am a graduate of Northwestern State University.

Editor's Note: Linda Davis is the Assistant Director of Career Development at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. Her e-mail address is DavisLN@hendrix.edu.

Mary Edith Stacy

Class of 1991



Mary Edith Whithead Stacy can remember many smiling faces during her undergraduate days at Northwestern State University. "It seemed as though people were always willing to serve and help the students," said the 1991 graduate. Today, she is proud to return the favor of not only serving her alma mater, but the students as well. Stacy is employed as coordinator of university scholarships at NSU, a position she has held since 1992. "It is very satisfying to see a student that has been awarded a scholarship complete their degree program," said Stacy.

The Natchitoches native holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's of education, which she was awarded in August of 1996, from NSU. "I was very satisfied with the education I received from NSU," said Stacy. "While in school, I was a student worker in the Business Department and I am so pleased they have received accreditation." Stacy says it comes as no surprise to her that accreditation was granted to the College of Business and she gives credit to the professors. "There are some really great professors in the College of Business. Dr. Walter Creighton, Dr. Joel Worley and Dr. Susan White are all excellent teachers

in the classroom. Worley brought so much real life knowledge to the classroom. They all impacted my life in some way."

Stacy, a 1988 St. Mary's High School graduate, never considered attending any school besides Northwestern and she has never regretted her decision. In fact, she says by attending NSU, it gave her the chance to see the campus move in a positive direction. "Northwestern has grown both student wise and in the number of programs we now offer. As a graduate student, I saw how the school had become much more student-oriented. While I was in high school, all that people talked about was how NSU might close. When I got here in 1988, the climb started and you began to see more and more people each semester and I am so glad the trend has continued."

Stacy has also watched as the amount of scholarship money at Northwestern has increased. "The second year I was here it increased and it has stayed that way since then. NSU is definitely able to compete with other schools when it comes to scholarships. We can get those students for instance from Winn Parish who are being influenced by other state universities. We are able to pull them away and get them here. Especially satisfying to

Stacy are the students who are awarded scholarships that may not otherwise have gone to college. "These students are generally very grateful for the scholarship and put forth 100 percent while in school."

Stacy is responsible for coordinating the process by which scholarships are awarded to high school seniors in addition to coordinating alumni scholarships and scholarships from outside organizations. "When I came to NSU, there was really no one area that oversaw scholarships. Today, all scholarships awarded go through this office and we have developed policies and procedures that outline this area of the university so we hope it will run a little more smoothly."

Stacy also has the challenge of directing NSU's Pom-Pon line, a job she volunteered to do for one year, but has so far lasted for three years. "I really enjoy it, but you can imagine how challenging it would be to work with 40 college aged girls. I am just a ring leader, someone who works out problems and makes decisions."

Stacy is married to James Russell Stacy, a Natchitoches farmer and member of the NSU Class of 90.

Ed Bradley

Class of 1971



When Ed Bradley helped spearhead the formation of the NAACP chapter at NSU and the first at a college campus in Louisiana back in the early 70's, little did he know what valuable lessons that experience would teach him for use later in life. "It taught me about myself," said Bradley, who is now General Manager at KSLA-TV in Shreveport. "It showed me I could cause things to happen and that I could visualize something and see it come true."

The 48-year old Bradley says it was during that journey he adopted the philosophy that if he thought it, he could do it and has carried that belief with him throughout his professional life. "I have always been an optimist and I think that is why I am where I am today and why I have had the opportunity to do so many things."

It doesn't seem as though Bradley has strayed from that philosophy particularly when it comes to his two decade climb up the career ladder. His experience in the media business started with his first job upon graduation from NSU in 1971. The Chestnut native worked at KCMO-TV in Kansas City as a mail guy before

moving on to take positions in service, sales and finally as national sales manager. He has held positions at WTVH in Syracuse, NY, WJTV in Jackson and with the Meredith Corporation, which owns seven television stations nationwide, as vice-president of sales and marketing.

While he has spent a lifetime developing a career in the media business, it would have seemed logical for him to have entered Louisiana's political world or gone to law school. "I graduated with a degree in political science and the media business was just something I backed into. I chose political science because in the 7th grade, my family got our first set of encyclopedias and the word political science was big and it looked good."

Bradley's humor is still evident even as he relaxes behind the desk in his large, plush office where he has spent the last 18 months rebuilding Channel 12. "We have rebuilt from the inside as well as from the outside." That means changes that are evident to viewers, but those that aren't quite as noticeable too. "We are number one and we are starting to get things done. We're building

for the new, but we are reclaiming the old too."

Bradley is thrilled to have had the opportunity to return to the south and in particular to Louisiana. "My mom is 75 and my dad is 76 and they are both in very good health and living in Chestnut and that is one reason I am delighted to be back. I also wanted to come back south because of the warm climate. The heat here is a small price to pay when you have been as cold as I have." Bradley also enjoys a slower pace to life, after having spent years crisscrossing the country and traveling from city to city to conduct business, many times maintaining four offices at one time.

For now, he is content with his job at Channel 12 and its parent company, Raycom Media. But, he claims Ed Bradley types don't sit still often and while it may be a long way off, he has considered obtaining his master's degree and one day teaching at the college level.

Bradley lives in Shreveport with his wife Rita. The couple has four children, Elissa, Edward, Michael and Eve, who are currently enrolled in college and one granddaughter, Micallah.



'25 Marie Toups is retired and living in Lockport, LA.

'30 Benjamin Arthur taught school for 40 years in Sabine Parish Schools. He is living in Garden Park Nursing Home in Shreveport, LA. He has three children.

'43 Etoile Mobley Richey, a self-employed piano tuner, is living in Shreveport, LA. She has three children.

'45 Hanna Sterkx is a self-employed real estate investor and owns and manages rental property in Alexandria, LA. She has two children.

'50 Gloria Gates Donohoe is a retired piano teacher. She and her husband live in Lafayette, LA. They have two children.

'50 Dolores Dugas Parrott is currently teaching microbiology at the University of Texas in Edinburg. She retired from the Valley Baptist Medical Center where she served as senior microbiologist for thirty years. She and her husband James Parrott ('48) have been married for 47 years. They have two children.

'51 Lowell Vaughn, LTC US Army-retired, and his wife are now living in Scroggins, TX. They have three children.

'52 Marjorie White Tucker is retired. She and her husband are living in Baton Rouge, LA. They have three children.

'54 Bobby Earnest, an aerospace technologist with NASA, is retired and living in Smithfield, VA. He has four children.

'56 Mary Phillips Grice is a real estate broker in Lake Charles, LA. She has two children.

'60 Ted (Whitey) Dyson is director of credit operations for VNU in Coral Springs, FL. He has two children.

'60 Margaret Andries Whittington is a psychiatric nursing consultant with the federal government. She lives in Coats, NC and has three children.

'61 Lynda Williams Crane and husband live in Garland, TX. She is employed with Raytheon E. Systems.

'61 George Krumm received his graduate degree from NSU in bacteriology in '63. He is a retired microbiologist with the US Department of Agriculture. He and his wife, Barbara Norris Krumm (attended NSU) live in Watkinsville, GA. They have two children.

'63 Jeanette Dick, associate professor, received her Ed.S. from McNeese State University in 1979 and joined the faculty there in Teacher Education until her retirement in July 1997.

'65 Fred Newman is a consultant for Triple N Services in Midland, TX. He has four children.

'65 William Brasher recently retired from the State of Louisiana. He and his wife are doing some traveling. They have two children and two grandchildren.

'65 Mary "Kate" Blanchard Repp is a counselor at Houston Community College. She has two children.

'66 Carolyn Thomas Sheridan is retired from BellSouth and living in New Orleans.

'67 Sandra Anderson Corley received her M.Ed. degree from NSU in '77 and is the elementary school librarian in Florien, LA. She is married to Cody Corley ('62) and they have two children.

'67 Roscoe Trout is CEO at Quorum Health Resources in Pittsburgh, PA. He and his wife live in Wexford. They have two children.

'68 Ralph Gaskin is a senior engineer with ALLTEL Communication in Little Rock, AR. He is married and has one child.

'69 James Smith is chief navigator with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters" at Keesler AFB, MS. He and his wife live in Slidell, LA. They have two children.

'69 David Smith has recently been promoted to agency manager at Metlife Insurance Co. He is married to Carolyn Atkins Smith ('69) who is a P.E. specialist at A.E. Phillips Lab School in Ruston, LA. They live in West Monroe and have two children.

'70 Betty Bostick Gunn is a special education teacher at Lenvil Elementary in West Monroe, LA. She has two children.

'72 Dr. R. Lyle Christensen is associate director of lab and director of marketing at King James Medical Lab in Cleveland, OH.

'73 Julie Lalande Abendroth is living in Shreveport, LA. She is a homemaker.

'74 Harold Mason is director of corporate human resources with B.F. Goodrich in Richfield, OH. He is married and has three children.

'76 David Melton is a field representative with the Social Security Administration in Winchester, VA. His wife, Barbara Bodin Melton ('76) is director of Wayside Museums in Strasburg. They have one child.

'77 Wanda Heary Jacobs and her husband live in Ocean Springs, MS. She is publisher and CEO of The Mississippi Press in Pascagoula.

'77 Harold Babin lives in Houston, TX and works for Tubesales, Inc. as a special projects manager. He is married to Jerri Fix Babin ('76) and they have two children.

'77 Fair Hyams was promoted to senior vice president of First Commerce Corp. FCC is based in New Orleans. He is married and has two children.

'77 Rory Alexander is a field director for East Texas Area Council Boy Scouts of America in Carthage, TX. He is married to Tammy Gauthier Alexander ('79). They have two children.

'82 Sarah Bumgardner Plunkett is a legal secretary with Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts Law Firm in Shreveport, LA. She has one child.

'83 Ginger Shelton Mueller received her M.A. degree from NSU in 1996 and is teaching for Winn Parish School Board. She has two children.

'84 Thomas Bennett is office manager for Office Depot in Coral Springs, FL. He is married to Xiomara Bennett ('82) and they have two children.

'85 Lee Anne Shackelford Williams, a veterinary assistant, is married and living in Franklin, TN.

'85 Charles (Chuck) Dupree is head football coach at Airline High School in Bossier City, LA. He is married to Lisa Ledet Dupree (attended NSU '81-'82). They have two children.

'87 Sammy Jeter Richmond is owner of dSm Bookkeeping Service in Alexandria, LA. She is married and has three children.

'88 Mia Sepulvado Curtis teaches Spanish/English at Zwolle High School. She and her husband and two children live in Ebarb, LA.

'88 Angela Griffith Harris was recently married and lives in Menlo Park, CA. She is an investment specialist with Charles Schwab & Co.



'89 Emily Salter Walker teaches English/Social Studies at Jones Street Junior High in Alexandria, LA. She is married and has one child.

'89 Vickie Gentiles Waters teaches 5th grade at Winnfield Intermediate School. She and her husband live in Natchitoches, LA. They have three children.

'89 Lisa Thevenot Bordelon teaches for Avoyelles Parish School Board in Marksville, LA. She received her M.Ed. from NSU in '93. She and her husband live in Cottonport.

'90 Lori Bemont Scroggs teaches kindergarten in Winnfield, LA. She has two children.

'90 Mona Hiestand Bombassi is married to Tony Bombassi ('90). They both work at Cigna Group Insurance in Dallas. She is an economic consultant and he is senior case manager. They have two children and live in Mesquite.

'90 Stacie Guillory works for Texas Cardiology Consultants in Dallas as a scheduler. She lives in Irving.

'90 Denise Kruse Dick is an instructor at Louisiana Technical College in Jena, LA. She and her husband and child live in Winnfield.

'91 Stephanie Constance Landry received her master's degree in student personnel services in '94. She is a special populations counselor at LA Technical College in Metairie, LA. She is married to Michael Landry ('93) and they have one child.

'91 William Johnson is a waterfowl & wetlands biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. He lives in Port Neches, TX.

'91 Celeste Evans Shapkoff is an occupational therapist at Louisiana Therapy Services in Leesville, LA.

'91 Kelly Carpenter Parks works for Valex Federal Credit Union in Pineville, LA. She is married to Jason Parks ('92). He is assistant financial center manager at Rapides Bank. They have one child.

'92 David "Pat" Hall works for Perot Systems Corporation in Dallas as an operations analyst.

'92 Cary Dunnington is an administrative assistant at Riviera Finance in Arlington, TX. She lives in Highland Village.

'92 Scott Simmons is a resident physician in internal medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

'92 Nicole Scott is housing unit manager at Corrections Corporation of America in Greenwood, MS. She has two children.

'93 Heather Tippet lives in Plano, TX. She is employed at Samsung Telecommunications America, Inc. in marketing communications.

'93 Yolanda Bobb lives in Natchitoches, LA and works with the Natchitoches Parish Health Unit as a caseworker assistant. She has one child.

'94 Elizabeth Battalora Laborde is instructor of nursing at Louisiana College in Pineville, LA. She is married, has two children and lives in Marksville.

'94 Sarah Kiely received her M.S. from NSU in Clinical Psychology in '97. She is a psychological specialist at Florida Department of Children and Families at Tacachale Community in Gainesville.

'95 Patsy Neal Garlington is married to Timmy Garlington ('88) and they have two children. Patsy is a preventive health counselor at the Extra Mile Region VI in Pineville. They live in Trout, LA.

'95 Kelly Dew is a kindergarten teacher at Weaver Elementary in Natchitoches, LA.

'95 DeLisa Hutson is employed at Laboratory Corporation of America in Burlington, NC as a programmer/analyst. She lives in Greensboro.

'95 Michael Burlew teaches at Monroe County Public Schools in Summerland, FL. He lives in Key West.

'95 Clay Gardner lives in Baton Rouge, LA where he is a personal financial advisor with American Express Financial Advisors.

'95 Dana Freeman Evans is a nursing supervisor-public health nurse at LaSalle Parish Health Unit in Jena, LA. She has two children.

'95 Sandy Bennett is a 5th grade teacher at St. Paul Cathedral School in Yakima, WA. She is married and has three children.

'95 Bridget Rochelle Pierre is a family service worker at Covington Head Start. She lives in Folsom, LA.

'95 Gayle Alexandra Juneau received her M.A. in student personnel services in '97. She is the admissions coordinator at University of West Florida in Pensacola.

'96 Amanda Fournier is employed in the Registrar's Office at NSU as an admissions technician. She is also a part-time employee at the Natchitoches Police Department.

'96 Anna Harper Daniel works at Ikon Office Solutions in Shreveport, LA as a facsimile specialist.

'96 Kelle Hinson is a business education teacher at DeRidder High School in DeRidder, LA.

'96 Jason Waters lives in Natchitoches, LA and works for Taylor Electric in Dodson as an electrician apprentice.

'96 Dwayne Jones is director of chapter operations at Theta Chi Fraternity International Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN.

'96 Vanessa Jackson Powers is a 2nd grade teacher at Stoner Hill Lab School in Shreveport, LA. She is married to Baron Powers ('95). They have one child and live in Bossier City.

'96 Barbara Welch Busby teaches at Leesville High School. She is married and has two children.

'96 Yvette Billingsley Fugate is a customer service rep at the Bank of Commerce in Baton Rouge, LA.

'96 Ashley Deville Vascocu teaches 6th grade language arts at Greenacres Middle School in Bossier City, LA. She is married to Charlie Vascocu ('95).

DECEASED

'23 Florine Aline Petit, Cut Off, LA, July 7, 1997.

'31 Wilma Taylor McKenzie White, Austin, TX, December 23, 1996.

'39 Eileen Porter White, Ponca City, OK, November 21, 1996.

'43 Charles Richey, Shreveport, LA, November 1, 1996.

'53 Nalbro Frazier, Luling, TX, March 26, 1997.

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Date _____ SSN: _____

Name _____
Last First Middle Maiden

NSU Undergraduate Degree(s): _____ Year(s): _____

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Years Attended NSU : _____

Organizations involved with at NSU: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Place of Employment
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Just in time for homecoming, workmen are shown repainting Northwestern's most visible symbol—the columns from the Bullard Mansion on the old campus quadrangle near Russell Hall and Warren Easton Hall.

According to NSU Vice President of University Affairs, John Winston, it has been several years since the columns have been painted and the elements gradually have taken their toll.

Winston said that a student recently pointed out to university administrators that the columns could use a little touching up, so he immediately began working on the project. The three columns are all that remains of the original structure which first housed Northwestern back in 1884 when the Louisiana State Legislature created the State Normal School. The Normal Hill area where the columns stand was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

State University
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